



June 2000

FINAL FIELD DAY PLANNING AT THE JUNE MEETING!

THIS IS IT FOLKS! FIELD DAY IS THIS WEEKEND, JUNE 22-23.

Plans are still not quite finalized, but it looks as if Field Day will be at Maxwell Park near the Boys and Girls' Club at Highway 12 and Verano Avenue.

We are still planning to operate 3A, with three stations on the air using non-commercial power. We may not have use of a shaded picnic area, so we will need to plan to bring shade canopies, tables and chairs to use for the operating positions.

This week's meeting will be for finishing planning of the weekend. This year's Field Day location doesn't have the same cooking facilities the club is used to, so meals will actually be a little easier in that we have

our choice of several different local restaurants bordering the park. Whether your tastes run to Taco Bell or McDonalds, or to Breakaway Cafe or Denny's, there are many choices for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

At this time, we haven't had word back from the park district office about permission to camp overnight at the Field Day location. The park is normally used for day use only, but in light of the fact that this is not only a national contest, but an emergency communications exercise, club officers are hopeful that we will be given permission to operate through the night. We have staged other public contact field days and operations in the Sonoma Plaza and local shopping centers and have been able to make them work quite well.

The goals of Field Day are not only to practice and test our ability to set up and operate amateur radio stations independently of commercial services, but to get otherwise inactive or newly licensed hams on the air for a taste of real operating. VOMARC is inviting all our newly licensed operators, as well as the folks who haven't turned on a radio for several years, out to help the club rack up some points and to make contacts. The new hams will have plenty of "Elmers" to help them become familiar and comfortable with operating radios, and the old timers will be able to catch up on all the gossip and goings-on in amateur radio in Sonoma Valley.

Please come to this meeting and get prepared to have a good time!

VOMARC MINUTES MAY 15, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM. There were 12 in attendance.

Question was asked if anyone read in the newsletter who is the vice president this month. We are advised to read each month as it will change monthly until someone is found to assume the office of vice president. (Any volunteers)?

The minutes stand approved as published in the newsletter.

Treasurers report: there is \$1601 in the bank and a bill due for the club liability insurance of \$329.

There is a suggestion that the dates of all club events be published each month in the club newsletter to facilitate members projecting for their participation.

Discussion of the results of the Ham Fest ensued. One reason for the lack of participation this year is that it was on the same weekend as the DX convention. We will check the DX convention date for next year to be sure there is no conflict. If necessary, moving the date of our Ham Fest will be considered. Also, we will continue to try to coordinate with other non-profit clubs to share the facilities next year. The hope is that this will bring more people to the swap meet and breakfast and to give more exposure of our hobby to the public. Some suggestions for other organizations are: Pet's Lifeline, Sonoma Valley Garden Club, the Art Guild, Sonoma Valley Gem and Mineral Club. If anyone has suggestions for other non-profit organizations that might be interested, please let us know. There is a suggestion that we advertise one free breakfast for each vendor table to try to encourage more vendors to come. We need to do more advertising of the event to increase participation as we did not cover the expense of the liability insurance for the day this year. Since we are eligible

for one of the city of Sonoma's free days for the Veteran's Memorial Building, we do not have to pay the rent for the day, which is \$250 (we hear it is to go up next year).

Discussion of Field Day was next on the agenda. We are still trying to arrange being at Maxwell Park near the Boys and Girls Club for Field Day this year. Some of the reasons for the move are: Better signal, more public exposure, and to generate interest from the Boys and Girls Club members. Our club normally operates 3A for field day. However, we can put another station on the air as a "Get on the Air Station" and it will not change our designation. This separate station is one where the general public can get on the air and get a feeling for ham radio. We will try to have the club trailer with the three-section crank up tower on for our antenna. We may have solar panels for power also. If so, we get extra points for the contest. The trailer can hold four solar panels and is fixed with stabilizing jacks. There is a special waiver needed for members to stay overnight in Maxwell Park. We are continuing to work on that.

Net Control for May is Kermit, W6JFN. For June, net control will be Ken, N6KM.

There still needs to be some work done on the Frank Jones section of the club web page. Anyone with any biographical material on Frank Jones, please

contact Jan Bush, who will edit it for inclusion in the web page.

There will be an ACS drill on Thursday, May 30, 2002. It will be in the morning and will last for about two hours. Anyone who can participate is encouraged to do so.

There is still no idea of when the Sonoma Police Department will be remodeled or where the EOC will be located during the remodel.

The Hit the Road Jack run is June 2, 2002 from AM to approximately 11AM.

Other events: Fourth of July Parade.

Liberty Ride on August 11. The Sonoma County Communications trailer may be available for this event.

Vintage Festival Parade the last weekend in September (dates to follow).

There was discussion of FCC proposal to grant amateur radio prime status on three more HF frequencies. There was further reminder that we will see an increase in pressure by commercial sources to squeeze amateur radio out of the spectrum. The argument will be that amateur radio does not serve the public interest where as wireless telecommunication does. People do not realize that cell phones are not phones, but are actually radio transmitters. Amateur radio will need to be very proactive in P/R and educating the public to our hobby and to frequency usage.

Jan Bush was the winner of the monthly drawing. (Remember, for the yearly drawing, the more you attend the monthly meetings, the more chances you have of winning)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM.

The program for the evening was presented by Jim Hill, K6UUW, on the Baker to Las Vegas race. He participated in the communications for this event this year. This race is for law enforcement personnel and is very professionally coordinated and organized. It is run as a relay with each lap being six miles in length. The entire race route is covered by four repeaters. Net control was located in Las Vegas and was equipped with GPS units as were the SAG wagons. It is run from 7PM on Saturday to 10AM on Sunday.

FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

Field day is just around the corner. Our plans are to use the Maxwell park area, just above the baseball diamond. Steve, K2IYQ, and I did a survey of the area and we should have to problem putting up at least one G5RV. Putting up a tower will be a bit more of a challenge, but that's what the day is all about; emergency communications. We are still looking for a very quiet generator. The new 2KW Hondas would be ideal.

Ken, N6KM, Steve, K2IYQ, and I participated in the May 30th Sonoma County emergency drill. We activated the EOC around 9:00am. It was a very realistic scenario, a large earthquake on the Roger's creek fault. We passed several messages to the county with no difficulty. Unfortunately, we didn't get to use packet radio. The drill was over around 11:00 am. One nice thing about having a drill like this is to get to meet and work with the city officials that would be running the show in a real emergency.

Frank Jones' old QTH on Donner St. here in Sonoma is going to be sold. I was asked to come over and take a look at the collection of books in his library. I was amazed to see radio magazines from the thirties and some of his original manuscripts. So I loaded up my van. If anyone in the club would like a project to sift through this material, let me know. It would be great if some of his work could find its way to a museum. I will bring a couple of boxes to the next meeting for you to see. I even found some of his old QSL cards.

Congratulations to Jan Bush who just recently upgraded to extra and his new call is AE6FQ.

Let's make sure we have a strong attendance at the July meeting. The folks from the submarine museum, Pampinito, will give a presentation. Their talk has been the works for some months. We will need all

members at the June meeting to help plan for the upcoming field day.

73 for now and hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Jim, K6UUW



Here is a picture of Frank Masten, AB6SG, accepting an award from Jim Hill, K6UUW, and President of VOMARC. The award acknowledges Frank's long-time participation in VOMARC and his contributions to the club.

Frank and his wife Brownie have sold their home here in Sonoma after many years residence and have moved nearer their daughters to be able to spend more time with their grandchildren.

Frank has always been active in VOMARC activities and has served as a Volunteer Examiner with the VOMARC VE; has participated in Field Days and past hamfests: bought and contributed the ARRL flag to the

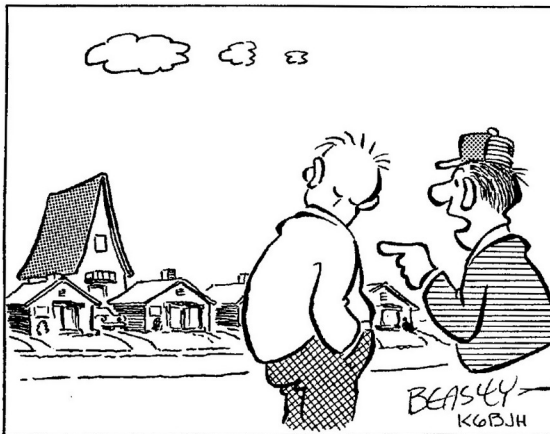
club, and has donated a copy of the QST back issues on microfilm to the local library.

Frank is an old-time CW man who operated the Scaggs Island Naval Radio Station during Armed Forces Day with VOMARC members for many years. He jumped into new technologies with his interest and operation of his packet radio station, and became interested and operated his QRP station both at home and from his truck.

An old Marine pilot (there are no "former" Marines), he loved to regale friends with his stories about flying Corsairs and C-47s in the Pacific theater during World War II.

His latest donation is his three-section crank-up tower for VOMARC's new antenna trailer. Frank's presence will be missed at VOMARC meetings and functions. His many friends hope to maintain contact on the air after he gets his station set up in his new home.

73s Frank!



THAT'S MY HOUSE--- THEY WON'T LET ME PUT UP
AN EXTERNAL ANTENNA, SO I MODIFIED THE ROOF
TO ACCEPT AN ATTIC DIPOLE

For newly licensed hams, a little something for ideas for stealth antennas in those restrictive neighborhoods. From *The Best of Beasley*, Robert Beasley, K6BJH, published by Worldradio Books, Sacramento, CA

NEW EXTRA CLASS QUESTION POOL EFFECTIVE JULY 1:

Starting July 1, a new Amateur Extra class (Element 4) question pool goes into effect for examinations given on or after that date. The new pool contains more than 800 questions--up from the present 685. There is no change in the number of questions or the passing grade for examinations derived from the new question pool, however, and no other examination elements are affected. A representative from ARRL VEC sits on the Question Pool Committee, which is composed of representatives of four of the nation's Volunteer Examiner Coordinator organizations. Question pools are revised and updated on a timetable determined by the QPC, which is soliciting candidate questions based on the recently released Technician (Element 2) syllabus. All current question pools are available on the ARRL Amateur Exam Question Pools Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pools.html>>.

From the ARRL Letter

If you haven't, you still may, but only if you act now. Time is running out and you wouldn't want to miss this chance. To join VOMARC, contact the Membership Chairman, Steve Todd, K2IYQ, by filling out the

membership application on page 6 of this newsletter, and sending it with a measly ten dollars to:

Valley of the Moon ARC
18958 Carillo Court
Sonoma, CA 95476-5570

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 6 EDITION 1

A publication of the Valley of the Moon
Amateur Radio Club - W6AJF

Frank C. Jones - W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW - President
Thomas Swift, N2QRP - Vice President
Joan Brady, W6WXU - Secretary
Steve Todd, K2IYQ - Treasurer
Mike Miller, WB6TMH - Radio Officer
Ken McTaggart, N6KM - Club Trustee
Steve Todd, K2IYQ - Membership Chair
Darrel Jones, WD6BOR - Editor

***Receipt of the Wireless is one of
the most sought after benefits of
membership in VOMARC.***

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month in McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, 15000 Arnold Drive, Eldridge. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as "SNV1EC". "SNVGW" can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is "SNVND".

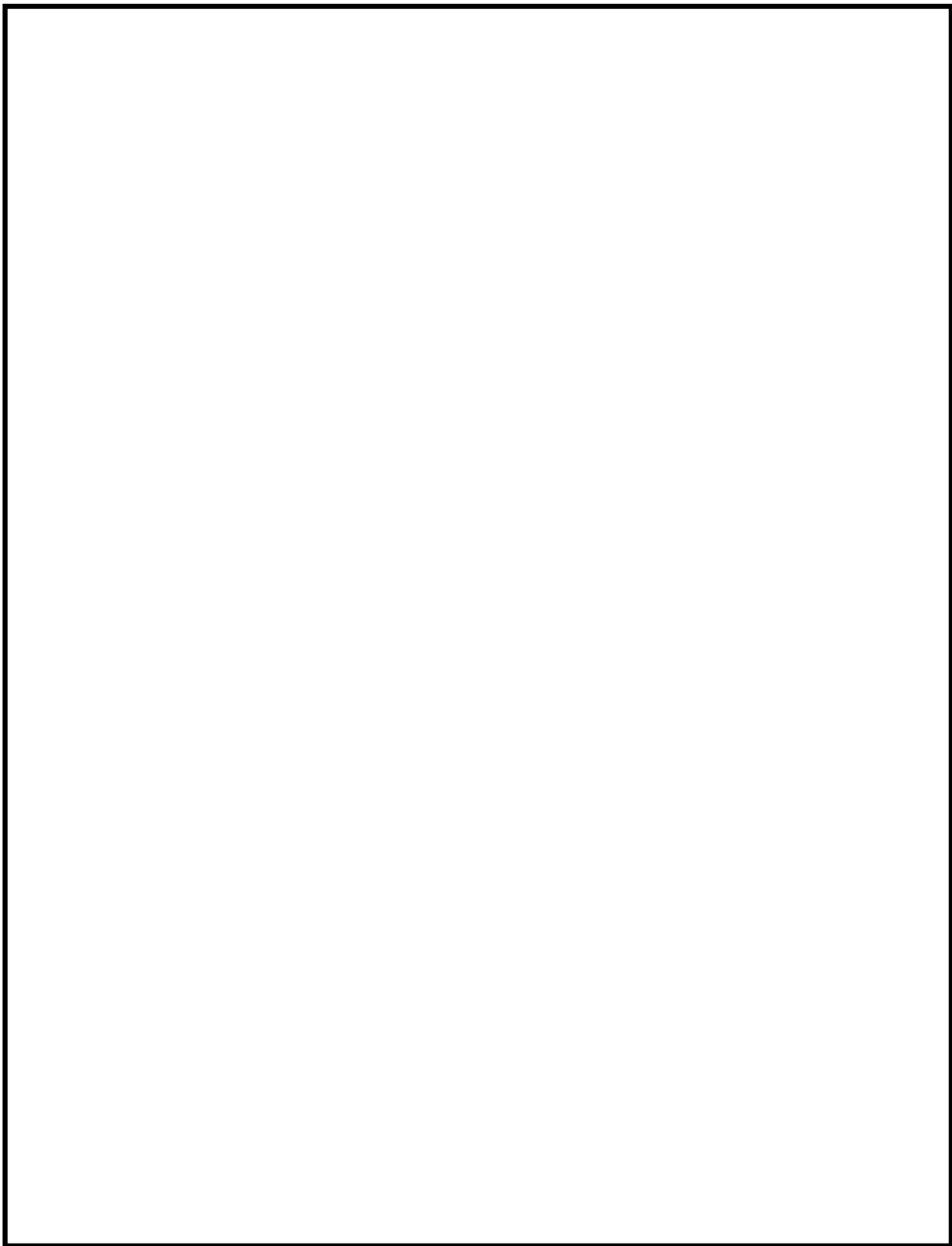
CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Denny's Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

WD6BOR@VOM.COM or
K6UUW@VOM.COM or
K2IYQ@VOM.COM

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476



**Valley of the Moon
ARC
18958 Carillo Court
Carmichael, CA 95170**

**REMEMBER! THE JUNE VOMARC MEETING IS THIS
WEDNESDAY THE 19TH AT 7:30 P.M. AT MC DOUGAL
HALL, AT THE SDC! CU THERE!**

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2002 Membership Dues: \$10/year individual; \$5/year family member.

ARRL Membership Dues: \$39/year; Over 65, \$34/year with proof of age; Family, No QST \$8/year.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

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VOMARC:\$ _____ ARRL:\$ _____ TOTAL:\$ _____

Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC** - 18958 Carillo
Court, Sonoma, CA 95476-5570